

METHOD, APPARATUS AND ARTICLE FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT

Controlling on-line access to reference materials includes receiving a request for on-line access to a reference material, determining if the requested reference material is made available on limited basis or on an unlimited basis, providing on-line access to the requested reference material for the requester if the requested reference material is made available on an unlimited basis, determining if a copy of the requested reference material is available if the requested reference material is made available on a limited basis, providing on-line access to the requested material for the requester if a copy is available and temporarily denying on-line access to the requested material for the requester if a copy is not available. Controlling the updating of reference materials available on-line includes providing a limited access collection of reference materials, providing an unlimited access collection of reference materials, allowing only a central authority to update the limited access collection of reference materials, and allowing users to update the unlimited access collection of reference materials.